

(a) whether it is a fact that China has recently entered into an agreement with Bangladesh for collection of information about Brahmaputra and to obtain hydrological data;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that China is trying to divert the water of Brahmaputra as a result of the said agreement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no such information about any agreement between China and Bangladesh on Bramhaputra River.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Per capita availability of water

†1462. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita availability of water is 140 litre per day in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the availability of water in most parts of the country has declined due to huge difference in the availability of water; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 billion cubic metre (BCM). Based on the population of 1027 million as per the 2001 census, the per capita availability works out to be 1820 cubic metre per year. The per capita water availability of the country is declining year

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

after year due to population growth. Further, due to large temporal and spatial variation in the rainfall in the country, the availability of water also varies considerably from one basin to another.

(d) Water being a State subject, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. However, Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments for completion of on-going irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Further, a pilot scheme titled "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" has been approved by Government of India in January 2005. Government of India also provides support under centrally sponsored scheme for Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) with a view to bridging the gap between irrigation potential created and potential utilized. Government has also constituted an Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the main objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge to ground water among all stakeholders.

Charges for commercial use of water

†1463. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the exercise of keeping in check the companies manufacturing mineral water and cold drinks by utilizing ground water recklessly has been initiated;
- (b) whether his Ministry is contemplating on fixing rates of water in view of its commercial utilization; and
- (c) whether the level of ground water in Punjab and Delhi has decreased alarmingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER

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